



State Water Plan Update
Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
January 29, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Erie County Conservation District
1927 Wager Road
Erie, PA 16509

Committee Members in Attendance:

Tim Bruno	Tom McClure
Robert Buhl	Susan Moyer
James Cardman	Zachary Norwood
Jason Childs	Craig Palmer
Tony Foyle	Brenda Sandberg
Patrick Gehrlein	Timothy Wachter
Daniel Gold (phone)	Dennis Whitney
Joe Greco	Matthew Wolford
Rebecca Hosack	David Wright
Melissa Lyon	Kathy Wyrosdick

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Harry Diz
Amy Murdock
Deborah Phillips

Others in Attendance:

Kristina Peacock-Jones - DEP	Monica Gould - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mark Matlock - DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
James Horton - DEP	
Dave Jostenski - DEP	

Dave Jostenski opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The DEP staff and Strategic Consulting Partners (SCP) facilitators introduced themselves. All committee members in attendance introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their interest in the work of the committee. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed by Monica Gould.

State Water Plan Update

Dave Jostenski provided an overview of what the State Water Plan update will include, what will not be included, and how this plan update will be different than the plan

developed between 2003 and 2012. This plan update has a shorter timeframe and it is anticipated to be completed in two years. Quarterly Regional Committee meetings and Statewide Committee meetings will be held in 2020. In the first two quarters of 2021 the Regional Committees will be drafting recommendations to present to the State Committee. During the second half of 2021 the State Committee will review the Regional Committees recommendations and develop a finalized plan to be presented to the Secretary of DEP.

The current plan update's primary objectives include:

- A review and update to the state water plan
- Review of the policies and requirements of Act 220
- Review and revisions to the goals of each planning region
- Development of strategies for implementation of the 2018 Climate Action Plan
- Development of strategies and a model for long term planning and funding of the planning process
- Recommendations for legislative, regulatory, policy and programmatic changes to Act 220.
- Review, complete, approve and adopt the Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) in the Potomac and Ohio Regions.
- Complete additional web-based applications and tools to convey water resources information to the public.

Election of Regional Committee Officers and Statewide Committee Nominations

Craig Palmer volunteered to fill the Chair position for the Great Lakes Regional Committee. A Matt Wolford/Tim Wachter motion to nominate Craig for the Chair position was unanimously approved. A James Cardman/Patrick Gehrlein motion was made to nominate Brenda Sandberg for the Vice Chair position and the motion was unanimously approved

Matt Wolford and Tim Wachter volunteered for nomination to be appointed to the State Committee. Only one individual can be selected to represent the Great Lakes Regional Committee, but other individuals can be appointed by the Governor who represent the interests of a cross section of water users. A motion to nominate Matt Wolford for the State Committee was made by Joe Greco/David Wright. A motion to nominate Tim Wachter for the State Committee was made by David Wright/Brenda Sandberg. Both nominations were unanimously approved, and the names will be submitted for Statewide committee membership.

Great Lake Regional Planning Committee Bylaws

Bob Whitmore reviewed the Great Lakes Region Committee bylaws which were approved in 2004. A comparison of all regional committee bylaws was provided and variances in different committee articles related to meetings, voting, and executive sessions were reviewed. Article XII: Amendment of By-Laws provides that "the bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Regional Committee by two-thirds vote of the full Regional committee membership (15 voting members) provided that written notice of such change

has been sent via certified mail with a return receipt to each member at least two weeks prior to the meeting.”

A Matt Wolford/Tim Wachter motion was unanimously approved to add a bylaws discussion to the next meeting agenda. If anyone on the Regional Committee has suggestions for bylaws changes, please submit these suggestions to the Chair prior to the next meeting.

Regional Priorities

Mark Matlock, DEP staff member, reviewed the regional priorities that have been identified in the current state water plan. A future document will be provided to Regional Committee members on accomplishments since the State Water Plan was last adopted. This includes:

- DEP regulation changes, new programs, and studies that have been completed;
- Accomplishments and changes at the federal, state and local levels;
- Actions that have been proposed.

Committee members were provided a list of the regional priorities developed in 2003. Members were asked to identify which priorities are still relevant, which ones have changed, and what should be added as a new priority. Committee members were divided into small workgroups to identify initial priorities they believe the Great Lakes Regional Committee should consider. Priorities identified by the workgroups include:

- Analysis on contaminants in streams, rivers and lakes and emerging contaminants
- Climate change
- Communications with partner jurisdictions - other states and Canada
- Working with other states and Canada on water quality and water quantities
- Compact - Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River
- Great Lakes Coalition
- Potter County - what are the issues important to this county
- Stormwater management - Is MS4 working?
- Land use management
- Proactive land management best practices
- Invasive species
- Protection Lake Erie from outside legal decisions
- Bank erosion
- Is water quality improving?
- Sustainable water resources
- Integrated water resource management - municipalities working together
- Have a stormwater primer
- Best management practices for agriculture

Critical Area Resource Plan (CARP)

James Horton, DEP staff member, provided an overview of the three CARPs initiated since the State Water Plan was adopted. There are no current CARPs in progress in the Great Lakes Region.

Climate Change

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP staff member, provided a high-level review of the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan identifies 19 overall strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change in Pennsylvania. Water resource strategies identified in the Plan include:

- Strategy 14 - Use stormwater best management practices, and
- Strategy 15 - Promote integrated water resources management and water conservation.

Future Meetings

A tentative schedule of the quarterly meetings for 2020 and the first half of 2021 was provided to Committee members. It was agreed meetings will be scheduled for the identified dates and held at the current meeting location, Erie County Conservation District. Matt Wolford suggested the Committee consider holding a meeting in Potter County, so they feel represented. Jason Childs, representing Potter County on the Committee said the Potter County Commissioners have created a water quality work group which meets monthly. It was agreed the Regional Committee Chair will obtain the meeting dates for the Potter County water quality work group and select a date for Regional Committee members to attend if they desire to do so.

Tim Bruno, DEP staff member, was asked to provide a primer for Regional Committee members at the next meeting. Topics that could be included in the presentation include:

- watersheds
- stormwater issues
- protection of the water basin
- assessment of navigation needs
- Great Lakes Coalition
- Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers, waters

Committee members suggested DEP staff develop a brief presentation for the next meeting that can be used to inform the public of the role and activities of the Regional Committee. This presentation can be like the background information covered in the Clean Water Academy training.

Committee members do not believe a public hearing should be scheduled for the April meeting and should not be scheduled until the committee has an opportunity to develop specific recommendations.

Action Items

- Home addresses for mailings will be updated by DEP staff
- An email list of Committee members will be provided to the Committee

- Ideas for changes to the bylaws should be sent to the Chair prior to the next meeting in April

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.